



July 22, 2014

**KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-14-49**

**SUBJECT: LTP–Environmental Quality Incentives Program–Fiscal Year 2014 Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring**

**Action required by:** July 30, 2014 (Field Offices [FOs])

**Action required by:** August 1, 2014 (Area Offices [AOs])  
August 25, 2014

**Purpose:** Provide guidance for administering the fiscal year (FY) 2014 Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2015

**Background:**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has established edge-of-field water quality monitoring conservation activities to address three primary purposes: (1) evaluate conservation system performance, (2) validate and calibrate models, and (3) evaluate on-farm adaptive management.

National Bulletin (NB) 300-14-29 requested each state to submit one National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) 12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC-12) watershed for consideration in Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring. Funds for edge-of-field monitoring and data collection are provided by national headquarters (NHQ).

Considering recommendations from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Kansas NRCS submitted the NWQI HUC-12 watershed Headwaters Grasshopper Creek (102701030202) for edge-of-field water quality monitoring and the watershed was selected for FY2014. The majority of the watershed is in Brown County with small portions in Atchison and Jackson Counties.

**Eligible Land Uses, Resource Concerns, and Conservation Practices (CPs):**

Eligible land uses, resource concerns, and CPs are available in Attachment 1.

(more)

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The following conservation activities are available for edge-of-field water quality monitoring:

- Conservation Activity 201–Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring–Data Collection and Evaluation
- Conservation Activity 202–Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring–System Installation

Conservation activities are the actions necessary, using acceptable tools and protocols, to identify, inventory, assess, evaluate, or otherwise measure the presence and extent of a natural resource concern and how to address the natural resource concern through one or more CPs. Information gathered as a result of these actions must be essential to the development of a plan that furthers the purposes of the program, including a plan that addresses the adoption or adaptation of CPs in order to achieve a conservation benefit.

### **Screening Criteria:**

No screening criteria will be used for edge-of-field water quality monitoring.

### **Program Contracts System (ProTracts) Ranking Tool:**

The ProTracts fund code is “NWQI Monitoring.”

National ranking questions are consistent for all the EQIP applications and all questions will be used for this program. Refer to bulletin KS300-14-16 for additional guidance on answering national questions.

A copy of the state and local ranking questions are provided in Attachment 2.

Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) are not supported through this program; therefore, all ranking questions related to CAPs shall be answered no so additional ranking points will be awarded.

### **Deadlines:**

Although applications for EQIP are accepted continuously, the FY2014 application evaluation period cutoff date for applications was **July 18, 2014**.

FOs will have conservation plans and application ranking completed by **July 30, 2014**.

AOs will ensure peer reviews of rankings have been completed by **August 1, 2014**.

NHQ will be pulling a list of ranked applications from ProTracts on **August 4, 2014**. No additional consideration will be allowed after this date.

Funding decisions will be made by NHQ and a list of selected applications will be sent to the states no later than **August 11, 2014**.

All approved applications must be obligated by **August 25, 2014**.

**Additional information:**

Additional information and policy related to the edge-of-field water quality monitoring can be found in NB 300-14-29.

**Contact:** Please forward feedback and questions, through established channels, to Chad G. Volkman, Resource Conservationist, at 785-823-4568 or [chad.volkman@ks.usda.gov](mailto:chad.volkman@ks.usda.gov).

*(Signed)*

ERIC B. BANKS  
State Conservationist

Attachments